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Confidential

OLL 83-2212/2
21 September 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Fact-finding Meeting with Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Personnel Concerning Domestic Relocation Issues

REFERENCE: A. MFR, Domestic Relocation Allowance, OLL 83-2212 dated 13 September 1983

B. MFR, OLL 83-2212/1, Same Subject, dated 15 September 1983

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1. [redacted] Deputy Director of Personnel for Special Programs, [redacted] Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, and I, visited with the following personnel in accordance with our Reference A plan: STAT

Mr. John Skaggs, FBI
Mr. Greg Kenaston, DEA

2. We began the meeting by explaining our agenda--fact-finding on FBI and DEA concerns, difficulties, and initiatives with respect to the assignment of FBI and DEA personnel domestically, away from Washington, D.C., and the associated financial hardships that employees so assigned incur. The following points came out of our 75-minute meeting:

-- as of two years ago, an average FBI employee reassigned domestically with family was incurring out-of-pocket expenses, due to inadequate Federal Travel Regulations (FTR) entitlements, of $8,000 to $12,000;

-- the FBI will shortly survey, randomly, approximately 400 recent PCS reassignments in an attempt to update the financial hardships resulting from the current FTR's;

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-- both the FBI and DEA administer domestic PCS assignments centrally;

-- FBI fills some 800 or so PCS vacancies each year, while DEA fills about 300 domestic PCS vacancies annually;

-- neither the FBI nor the DEA are using brevet promotions, or other forms of compensation, to offset the hardships imposed by the FTR's on domestic reassignees;

-- both FBI and DEA PCS domestic reassignment policies are directive, vice voluntary;

-- both Agencies are lengthening domestic PCS tours to the extent possible, but both claim this relief is very uneven and, more often than not, impractical, because of mission requirements;

-- because of financial hardships resulting from domestic PCS reassignment, the FBI does almost all clerical, and much technical, vacancy placement, via local area recruiting rather than via reassignment;

-- impact of not accepting PCS reassignment in FBI is, for GS-14 through GS-18 employees, dropping out of promotable cadre or leaving the Bureau entirely; and

-- the FBI is providing free transportation advisory services to employees being reassigned domestically, via the Employer Relocation Council and the data that it generates on every major city in the country.

3. With respect to the Federal Employees Relocation Allowances Reform Act of 1983, authored by General Services Administration (GSA) with Office of Personnel Management (OPM) assistance, the FBI advised that:

-- it worked closely with GSA and Lee Hall (OPM'er detailed to GSA to draft Bill);

-- it is fully supportive of the GSA Bill as drafted;

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-- it has GSA's assurances that the regulations implementing the GSA Bill (if passed) will be broadly stated so as to allow maximum Agency flexibility;

-- it is planning to "customize" every single domestic PCS transfer with respect to allowances. Its preliminary planning would envision:

  -- an advance and accounting (as done today) for employee and family PCS transportion and subsistence expenses;

  -- use of a government Bill of Lading for the packing, movement, and unpacking of employee household effects; and

  -- payment of 75% of the employee's annual base pay to cover all other expenses, without further accounting; and

-- in accomplishing this "customized" allowance package for each domestic PCS transferee, it will establish and staff a centralized relocation travel assistance group. This group will have exhaustively detailed checklists covering all do's and don'ts of domestic relocations and equally exhaustive data on all major cities in the United States (already available and in use for the corporate relocation market). The Bureau estimates that the GSA Bill, if enacted and implemented as advertised, will allow it to reduce "voucher examiners" (read Central Travel Branch-type function, I think) by about 15 full-time employees, who will be retrained and reassigned to the new relocation travel assistance group discussed above.

4. Both the FBI and the DEA say they have worked closely and extensively with Senator Ted Stevens' (R., AL) Subcommittee on Civil Service, Post Office. and General Services (Committee on Governmental Affairs), both generally and specifically (in development of S. 1130). Both state they have also worked closely with Representative Frank Wolf (R., VA) and the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee (Mr. Wolf recently introduced H.R. 3852, "Moving

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Expenses"). Both also state that they have worked extensively through several law enforcement associations to lobby both the Administration and the Congress. Mr. John Walker, Assistant Secretary of Treasury for Law Enforcement, has purportedly been successful in obtaining Mr. Edwin Meese's passive support for the FTR reform initiative, which support the FBI believes led to the GSA tasking to draft legislation.

5. Mr. Greg Kenaston, a DEA Congressional Affairs Officer who previously was substantively involved in developing the DEA FTR reform agenda, still feels strongly that the most effective solution to the domestic PCS relocation dilemma is to adopt the non-taxable approach approved in the late 1970's for the uniformed military services.

6. Mr. Skaggs was of the opinion that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) would clear the draft GSA Bill essentially as written and that it would be introduced in calendar year 1984. I opined that our information did not support this information. He was lunching with Mr. Lee Hall, the OPM'er who wrote the GSA Bill, on 20 September 1983, to discuss the OMB status of this Bill and offered to share his information with me afterwards. I will call Mr. Skaggs on 21 September 1983.

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